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Sahbi TAMBOURA, Mohamad-Amine LARIBI, Joseph FITOUSSI, Mohammadali SHIRINBAYAN, R. Tie BI, Abbas TCHARKHTCHI, Hachmi BEN DALI - Damage and fatigue life prediction of short fiber reinforced composites submitted to variable temperature loading: Application to Sheet Molding Compound composites - International Journal of Fatigue - Vol. 138, p.1-8 - 2020

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Damage and fatigue life prediction of short fiber reinforced composites submitted to variable temperature loading: Application to Sheet Molding Compound composites

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ABSTRACT

Keywords:

Composites modeling
Thermomechanical loading
Fatigue life prediction
Damage

The majority of fatigue life prediction models which have been proposed for the Short Fiber Reinforced Composite (SFRC) materials have been developed for constant temperature. However, in real situations, SFRC structures are subjected to variable temperature. This study focus on the response of SFRC composites subjected to different sequences (or blocks) under variable temperature conditions. Experimentally, this kind of study requires a lot of investment from the point of view of cost and time. In this paper, the results coming from modelling the fatigue life and residual stiffness of short fiber reinforced composites subjected to thermo-mechanical loadings are reported. In fact, we propose to use a hybrid micromechanical-phenomenological model to quantify the evolution of the local damage rate during each loading block. Indeed, damage accumulation is calculated and cumulated step by step through the calculation of the evolution of a local damage ratio which describes the evolution of micro-cracks density until failure. Life prediction for specimens submitted to a variable temperature loading found to give acceptable results compared to experiments.

1. Introduction

Due to their several advantages, Short Fiber Reinforced Composites (SFRC) have been chosen for many decades as a good replacement for metallic structures in different domains, automobile, aeronautic and many other applications. However, the composite materials are strongly conditioned by the ability to design structures under various complexes loadings such as fatigue. They present a complicated behavior compared to homogeneous materials such as metals. Many parameters can affect the fatigue properties of composites [1]; fiber length and fiber orientation distribution [2], the reinforcement structure [3], loading and environmental conditions like temperature [4], cycling frequency [5], stress ratio [6], ...).

For SFRC, damage starts very early. Damaged zones growing gradually are associated to a progressive loss of stiffness and strength [7]. Damage threshold and kinetic depend on the different loading conditions such as amplitude, temperature, stress ratio and frequency. There

has been a great effort to develop methods that can predict fatigue life of SFRC. These models can be classified into three main categories [1]: empirical, used generally for metals and based on S-N curves, phenomenological based on a macroscopic damage description or residual stiffness and micromechanical models which are generally based on microscopic damage mechanisms.

Many empirical and phenomenological approaches based on stiffness or strength degradation have been introduced for composite materials fatigue researches [8–14]. Many of them were reviewed in many outstanding studies [15–18]. Commonly, authors have limited experimental data available to assure approach robustness. Generally, residual strength models or residual stiffness-based models are used. However, despite a more important scattering, the strength model is generally preferred.

Indeed, at the microscopic scale, the local damage occurring in short fiber reinforced composites strongly influence the macroscopic non-linear behavior. Therefore, phenomenological models need very large

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experimental campaign to be predictive for any microstructure.

Experimental investigation of strength evolution is money and time consuming. Only one residual strength value can be obtained per specimen. In industrial applications, in which a high-level of assurance is required, the design for composites often use advanced statistical analysis.

Moreover, effect of temperature on fatigue behavior and life has been studied by several authors but mainly in the case of short fiber reinforced thermoplastics obtained by injection molding. A lot of studies focus on polyamide-based composites [22–27]. Launay et al. [28] emphasized a temperature humidity equivalence when considering the gap between the working temperature and the glass transition. Some authors studied the combined effect of mechanical and thermal cycling on PBT based composites [29–31]. Although SMC composite components are subjected to thermomechanical fatigue, to our knowledge, there are no study carried out on this topic whether in experimental or modelling approach.

In this paper, we used a new hybrid model able to predict the fatigue life for SFRC materials under different temperature conditions [32]. This model aims to share the benefits of both the phenomenological and micromechanical approaches. This original hybrid approach consists in using an existing micromechanical damage model developed for monotonic tensile test simulation [33]. This multi-scale model is then adapted to predict the fatigue life of SFRC submitted to various thermomechanical profile.

It is well known that SFRC submitted to quasi-static or fatigue loading mainly develop fiber–matrix interface damage [33,34]. The Mori Tanaka approach is used to introduce this predominant damage mechanism through a local quadratic criterion which aims to describe statistically the evolution of fiber–matrix interface micro-cracks during loading until failure. This multi-scale damage model relates the macroscopic relative stiffness E/E_0 to micro-cracks density. As result, a state equation relating the macroscopic damage rate E/E_0 to a local damage rate d/d_c (where d_c corresponds to the micro-cracks density at failure of sample) can be established [32]. Then, the analytic expression of the loss in stiffness under fatigue loading coming from experimental investigation can be introduced in the derived equation established in the case of monotonic loading. This leads to the expression of the equation of state in the case of fatigue loading. In a previous study, this hybrid approach allowed fatigue life prediction in the case of constant amplitude and temperature. The aim of this paper is first to present experimental results coming from fatigue tests performed at constant amplitude and variable temperature. The results are presented in the form of progressive loss of stiffness and fatigue life for different microstructures of Sheet Molding Compound. Then, an adaptation of the hybrid micromechanical approach allowing fatigue life prediction for variable temperature loading schemes is proposed and validated by comparison to experimental results.

2. Material, experimental methods and analysis

2.1. Material

Sheet Molding Compound (SMC) composites are typically used in automotive industry. SMC is a good mechanical performance material consisting of a polyester resin reinforced by chopped glass fibers (28% in mass) and CaCO_3 particles (37% in mass). Glass fibers are presented in the form of coated resin bundles. For the need of the study, two types of SMC plates are molded using thermo-compression process under a pression of 60 Bar and a temperature of 165 °C. The first one is a randomly oriented material (RO material), obtained by filling in the center of a rectangular mold ($120 \times 250 \text{ mm}^2$) more than 80% of the surface by non-reticulated SMC flanks. Then, because of the limited flowing in the mold during thermo-compression, no preferential material orientation is be obtained (Fig. 1, (a)). The second microstructure is a high oriented material obtained by placing the SMC flanks in one

edge of the mold and recovering only 50% of its surface. This leads to a high oriented fibers distribution in the flow direction (HO material). (Fig. 1, (b)).

One can notice that the used SMC was supplied by Faurecia company. The primary characterisation results have been presented in [32].

2.2. Experimental methods

2.2.1. Specimen geometry

Overall mechanical test has been realized on a MTS 830 hydraulic fatigue machine. Fig. 2 shows the specimen geometry.

2.2.2. Test configuration

Several types of mechanical tests have been performed:

- Tensile tests were performed with the load velocity of 5 mm/min (see figure XXX).
- Quasi-static loading–unloading tensile tests with increasing maximum stress. The analysis of the reloading slope leads to the determination of the corresponding loss of stiffness.
- Tension-tension stress-controlled fatigue tests at different applied maximum stress (σ_{\max}). The chosen stress-ratio and frequency were $R = 0.1$ and $f = 10 \text{ Hz}$.
- Tension-tension fatigue loading with variable temperature at constant amplitude. To this aim, a specific thermal scheme was defined to be representative of real variations undergone by automotive structures such as tailgates (Fig. 3). Five sequences are applied noted from S_1 to S_5 . Each one is characterized by a couple temperature, number of applied cycles during the considered sequence: $S_i = (T_i, N_i)$.

This procedure was applied on three microstructure configurations: RO, HO-0° and HO-90°. Each configuration was tested on three specimens.

2.3. Experimental analysis

2.3.1. Loss of stiffness during tensile loading

From the results of testing [32] that we have performed, we propose to describe the evolution of the loss of stiffness during monotonic loading by a linear function (Fig. 4). This equation is based on the stress at threshold of damage, σ_{Ti}^S and is expressed by:

$$\left(\frac{E}{E_0}\right) = 1 + a_{Ti}(\sigma^{\text{imp}} - \sigma_{Ti}^S) \quad (1)$$

where E_0 and E are the Young's modulus of the non-loaded and the damaged one (after the application of σ^{imp}). The index, “ T_i ,” indicates the considered temperature. Therefore, σ_{Ti}^S and a_i define the value of stress at threshold and the kinetics of damage under uniaxial load, respectively. Note that for fatigue loading, the same expression may be used to evaluate the first loss of stiffness consecutive to the application of the first cycle at an imposed stress, σ^{imp} .

2.3.2. Loss of stiffness under fatigue loading

From the experimental results, the loss in stiffness under fatigue loading at a given temperature (index “ i ”) can be described by the following power function (Fig. 5):

$$\left(\frac{E}{E_1}\right)_N = A_{Ti} N^{B_{Ti}} \quad (2)$$

where E_1 represents residual stiffness after the first cycle and A and B are material parameters dependent only on applied temperature.

Note that, in fatigue test, because of the hydraulic system the requested loading cannot be applied instantly. Generally, it requires a given number of cycles, N_s to obtain the stabilization of the hydraulic

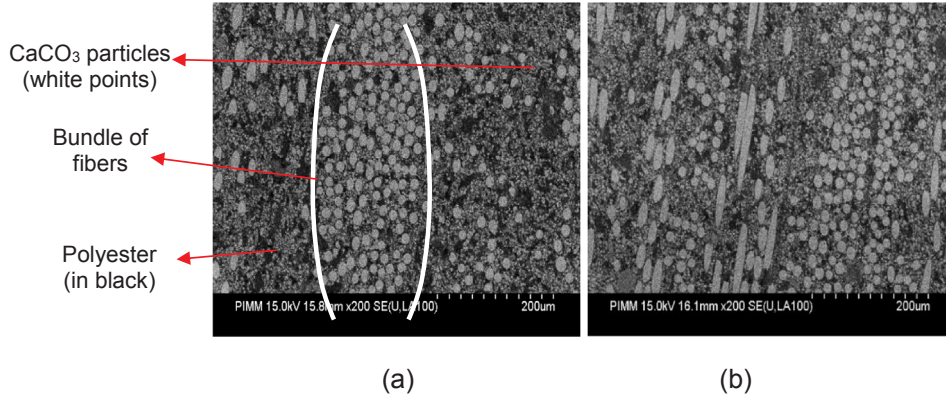


Fig. 1. (a) RO_Material and (b) HO_Material.

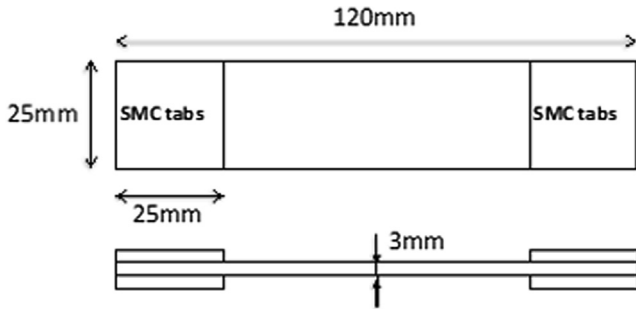


Fig. 2. SMC specimen geometry.

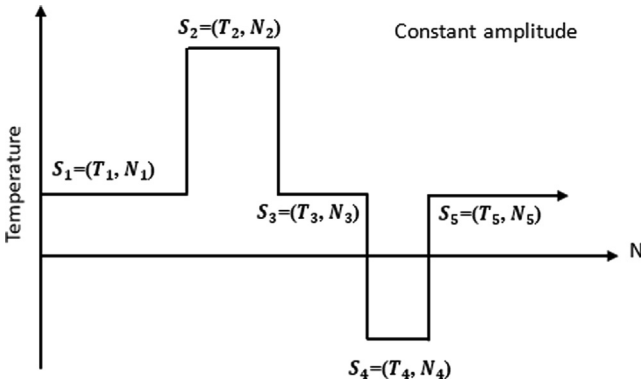


Fig. 3. Fatigue profile with variable temperature.

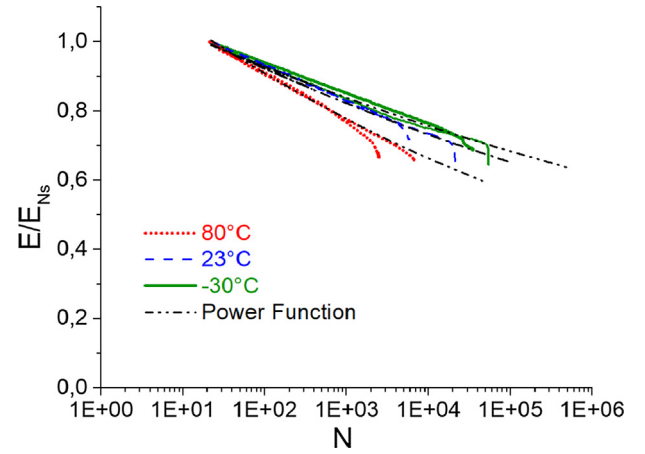


Fig. 5. Loss of stiffness in fatigue loading.

device. It is rather a parameter relative to the machine. It has been established that this stabilization stage does not increase the damage rate. So, we can consider that:

$$\left(\frac{E}{E_0}\right)_{N=N_s} = \left(\frac{E}{E_0}\right)_{N=1}$$

Besides,

$$\left(\frac{E}{E_0}\right)_N = \left(\frac{E}{E_1}\right) * \left(\frac{E_1}{E_0}\right)_{N=N_s}$$

The first term $\left(\frac{E}{E_1}\right)$, defines the loss in stiffness after the first cycle

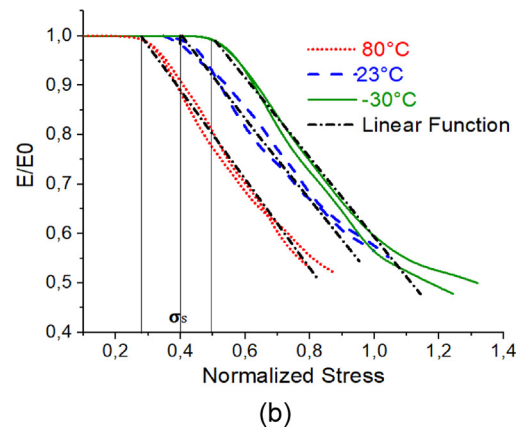
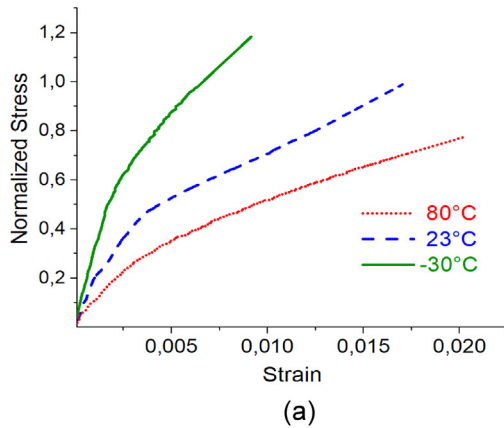


Fig. 4. (a) Tensile curves and (b) Loss of stiffness in tensile loading for the RO material for three temperatures.

determined by the parameters A_i and B_i (Eq. (2)) whereas the second term $\left(\frac{E_i}{E_0}\right)_{N=N_s}$, corresponds to the loss of stiffness due to the application of the first cycle which can be determined by Eq. (1).

Therefore, one can deduct the following expression for the loss of stiffness during fatigue:

$$\left(\frac{E}{E_0}\right)_N = (1 + a_{Ti}(\sigma_i^{imp} - \sigma_i^S)) * \left[\frac{N}{N_s}\right]^{B_{Ti}} \quad (3)$$

One can note that experimental results show that the damage kinetic parameters, B_i , may be considered independent of the applied amplitude. However, a_i , σ_i^S and B_i depend on microstructure and temperature. The damage threshold, σ_i^S , and the damage kinetic parameter under monotonic loading, a_i , should be identified experimentally or numerically using a micromechanical damage model such as the one proposed by Jendli et al. [33].

3. Hybrid model for fatigue damage and life prediction

The hybrid methodology used in this work has been detailed in a previous paper [32]. This approach combines a damage micromechanical model to a phenomenological approach. A local damage criterion is introduced in a Mori and Tanaka model in order to predict statistically the evolution of the fiber-matrix interface damage which is known to be the main damage mechanism [33]. Therefore, the monotonic tensile behavior is predicted as a function of the microstructure. At each loading step, the damaged microstructure is defined by three populations of heterogeneities: the non-damaged fibers, the active fibers (including both the non-damaged fibers and a part of the damaged fibers) and the micro-cracks whose volume fractions are respectively given by:

$$\begin{aligned} f_n^{ND} &= (1 - P_r^n) * f_{n-1}^{ND} \\ f_n^{act} &= f_n^{ND} + k \sum_{i=1}^n P_r^i \cdot f_{i-1}^{ND} \\ f_n^{mc} &= f_{n-1}^{mc} + h \cdot P_r^n \cdot f_{n-1}^{ND} \end{aligned} \quad (4)$$

where k present a reduction, coefficient applied to fibers partially damaged and h is the ratio between the volume of the introduced penny shape (representing interfacial micro-crack) and the fiber evaluated by geometric considerations. Subsequently, a Mori and Tanaka homogenization procedure integrating matrix, reinforcements and micro cracks can be achieved in order to predict the evolution of the residual stiffness tensor of the composite during a monotonic tensile loading. Therefore, macroscopic damage evolution should be related to the local damage parameter, d , defined by: $d = 1 - f^{ND}$. Moreover, the critical value of the local damage density, d_c , has been identified. Then, a local failure criterion is defined: $\frac{d}{d_c} = 1$. The stress-strain curves and the associated loss of stiffness and local damage rate are finally derived (see figure). Indeed, the micromechanical damage model establishes a relationship between the local and the macroscopic damage rates corresponding respectively to $\frac{d}{d_c}$ and the relative loss of stiffness, $\frac{E}{E_0}$.

The identification of the latter allows describing step by step the evolution of the local damage during a monotonic loading until failure.

The main assumption of the proposed hybrid approach is to consider that this relationship is intrinsic and can be described by a unique state equation independent of the microstructure and the type of loading. Therefore, the state equation can be established under monotonic loading using the micromechanical damage modelling briefly described above [32] and be still valuable under fatigue loading.

The identified state equation is then given by the following equation [32]:

$$\left(\frac{d}{d_c}\right)_{T_i} = \alpha_{Ti} \left[\left(\frac{E}{E_0}\right)_N\right]^2 + \beta_{Ti} \left[\left(\frac{E}{E_0}\right)_N\right] + \gamma_{Ti} \quad (5)$$

where α_i , β_i and γ_i are micromechanical parameters depending only on temperature T_i , and simply identified on the basis of tensile modelling

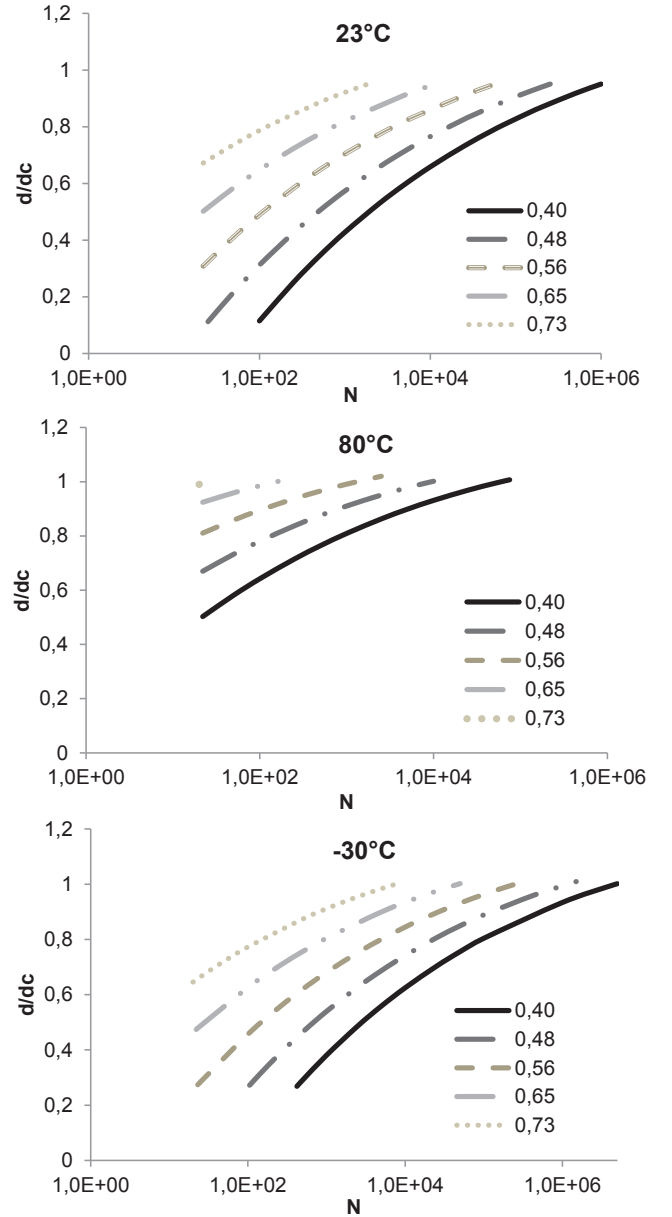


Fig. 6. The evolution of the local damage rate under fatigue loading for different temperature at various normalized applied stress: RO material.

and reverse engineering for each working temperature.

The originality of the proposed approach stands in the integration of the outputs of the micromechanical damage model validated for a monotonic quasi-static tensile loading into the phenomenological formulation of the fatigue loss of stiffness. Indeed, the introduction of Eq. (3) into Eq. (5) leads to the following expression:

$$\begin{aligned} \left(\frac{d}{d_c}\right)_{(T_i, N_i)} &= \alpha_{Ti} \left[\left(1 + a_{Ti}(\sigma_i^{imp} - \sigma_i^S) * \frac{N^{B_{Ti}}}{N_s}\right)^2 + \beta_{Ti} \right. \\ &\quad \left. \left[\left(1 + a_{Ti}(\sigma_i^{imp} - \sigma_i^S) * \frac{N^{B_{Ti}}}{N_s}\right) + \gamma_{Ti} \right] \right] \end{aligned} \quad (6)$$

Therefore, this hybrid methodology allows converting the evolution of the phenomenological macroscopic loss of stiffness to the evolution of a local damage indicator under fatigue for different temperature. Eq. (6) allows plotting the evolution of the local damage ratio d/dc under

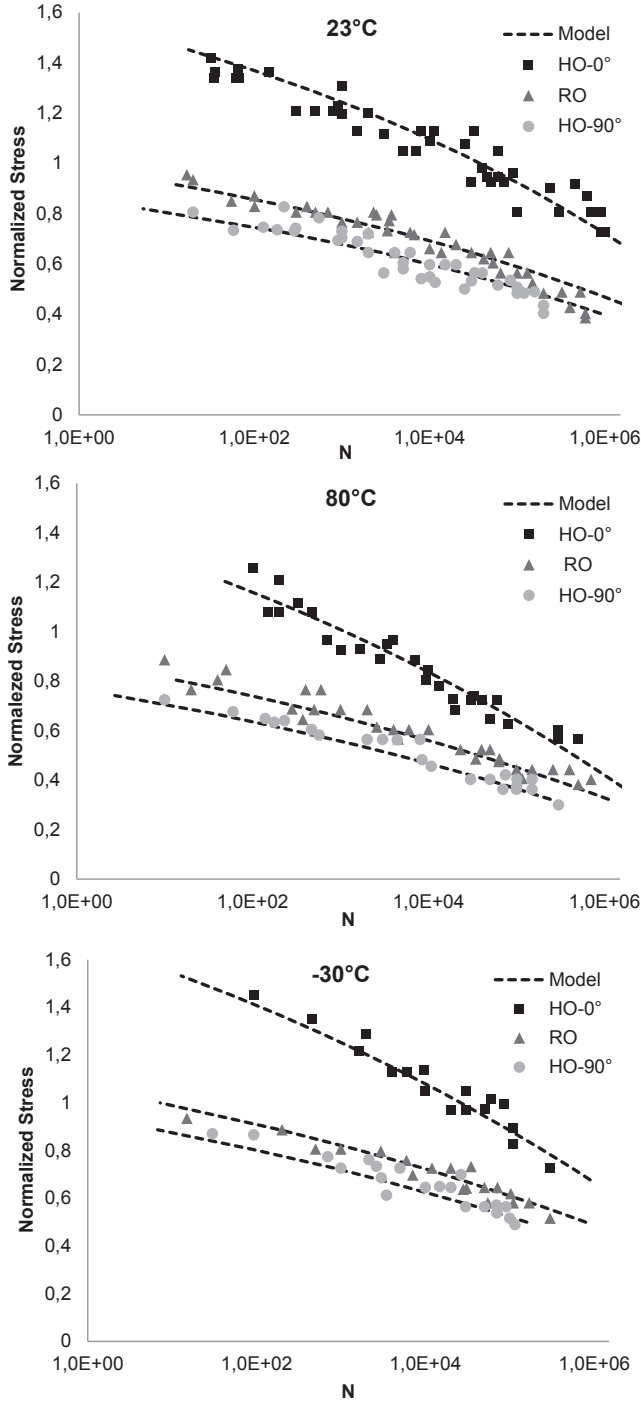


Fig. 7. Wohler curves predictions for the different microstructures: at 23 °C, 80 °C and -30 °C.

fatigue for several values of the applied macroscopic stress versus the applied number of cycles (see Fig. 6):

Note that the resolution of Eq. (6) for $\frac{d}{d_c} = 1$ gives access to the expression of the number of cycles to failure versus the applied stress:

$$N_R = N_S * \left[\frac{G_i}{1 + a_{T_i}(\sigma^{\text{imp}} - \sigma_{T_i}^S)} \right]^{\frac{1}{B_{T_i}}} \quad \text{where } G_i = \frac{-\beta_{T_i} \pm \sqrt{\beta_{T_i}^2 - 4\alpha_{T_i}(\gamma_{T_i} - 1)}}{2\alpha_{T_i}} \quad (7)$$

Therefore, predicted SN curve may be plotted and compared to the

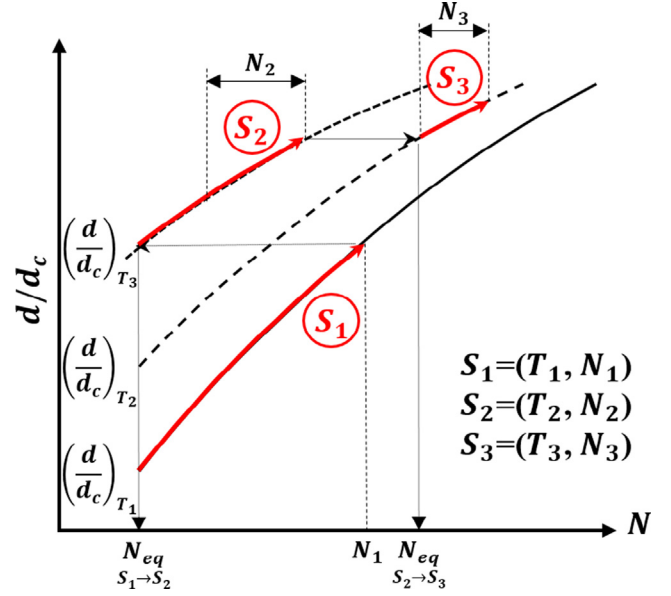


Fig. 8. Graphical illustration of the cumulative damage methodology.

experimental ones for the three working temperatures. Good agreements in Fig. 7 justify the efficiency of this approach.

One can observe from Fig. 7 that the fatigue behavior of RO sample is close to the HO_90° material. This is a known topic in SMC composite [35]. This lies to the local damage scenario which are quite similar for these two microstructures.

4. Variable temperature fatigue and cumulative damage simulation

4.1. Cumulative damage methodology

Once the micromechanical damage model is identified and validated, it may be used to predict the cumulative local damage until failure for a defined succession of loading sequences including temperature variations. Fig. 8 illustrates the proposed methodology to follow the evolution of the local damage rate throughout the successive loading sequences and to predict when failure should occur. In this figure, for the sake of illustration three curves are plotted corresponding to the evolution of the local damage rate for three fatigue loading at constant temperature, T_1 , T_2 and T_3 . These curves should be plotted from Eq. (6) as well as those of Fig. 6. During the application of the first loading sequence $S_1 = (T_1, N_1)$, the local damage rate increases until the corresponding value $\left(\frac{d}{d_c}\right)_{(T_1, N_1)}$ determined by Eq. (6) for $T_i = T_1$. In order to cumulate the damage increase due to the second sequence, $S_2 = (T_2, N_2)$, one should use the local damage evolution corresponding to T_2 . This evolution is described by Eq. (6) where $T_i = T_2$. At the beginning of the second sequence the following condition should be verified:

$$\left(\frac{d}{d_c}\right)_{(T_1, N_1)} = \left(\frac{d}{d_c}\right)_{(T_2, N_{eq})} \quad (8)$$

where N_{eq} is the number of cycles corresponding to the same state of damage for the new applied temperature T_2 . Therefore, the increment of local damage should be calculated from this point using Eq. (6) (with $T_i = T_2$). The same procedure should be repeated for each transition from one loading sequence to another.

More generally, for each transition from a sequence to the following one, the same condition should be verified:

$$\left(\frac{d}{dc}\right)_{(T_i, N_i)} = \left(\frac{d}{dc}\right)_{(T_{i+1}, N_{eq})} \quad (9)$$

The introduction of this relation in Eq. (6) allows the determination of N_{eq} applicable for each transition:

$$N_{eq} = N_S * \left[\frac{G}{((1 + a_{T_{i+1}}(\sigma^{imp} - \sigma_{T_{i+1}}^S)))} \right]^{\frac{1}{B_{T_{i+1}}}}$$

$$\text{with } G = \frac{-\beta_{T_{i+1}} \pm \sqrt{\beta_{T_{i+1}}^2 - 4\alpha_{T_{i+1}}\left(\gamma_{T_{i+1}} - \left(\frac{d}{dc}\right)_{(T_i, N_i)}\right)}}{2\alpha_{T_{i+1}}}$$

Then, the value of the local damage rate at the end of the next sequence should be computed using Eq. (6) setting $T = T_{i+1}$ and $N = N_{i+1} + N_{eq}$. Finally, when $\frac{d}{dc}$ exceeds 1 during a sequence, S_i , the total number of cycles to failure may be computed following the next equation:

$$N_R = N_S * \left[\frac{G}{((1 + a_{T_i}(\sigma^{imp} - \sigma_{T_i}^S)))} \right]^{\frac{1}{B_{T_i}}} - N_{eq} + \sum_{i=1}^j N_j \quad (10)$$

To sum up, it could be said that the proposed methodology is based on the principle of superposition. It supposes that the variable temperature scheme can be simulated by the superposition of the corresponding constant temperature scheme.

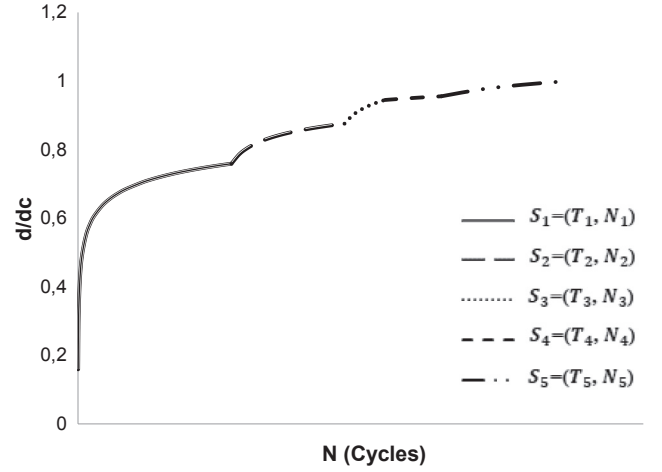


Fig. 10. Example of simulated evolution of d/dc for imposed stress (RO material at 0.48 normalized stress).

The computed algorithm is detailed in Fig. 9.

4.2. Results

Simulations of the five sequences thermomechanical loading scheme described in Section 2.2.2 for the three microstructures

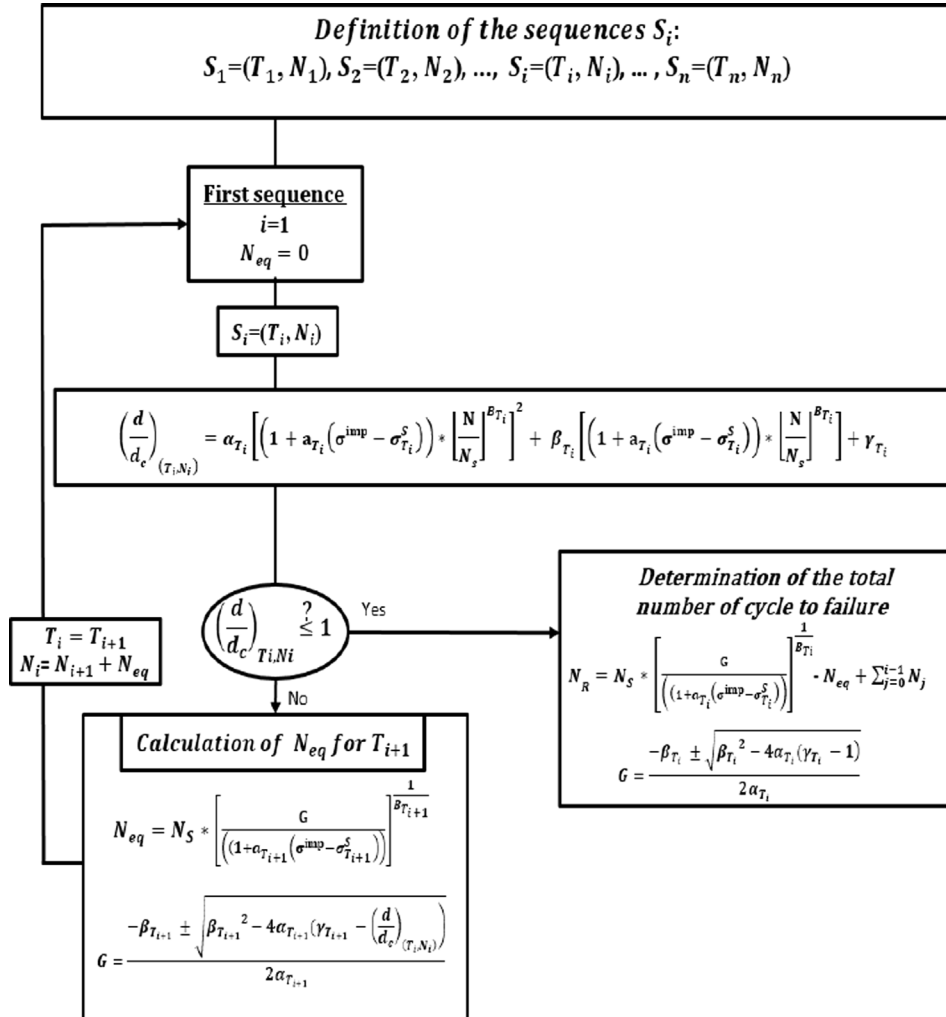


Fig. 9. Algorithm for cumulative damage calculation in the case of variable temperature loading.

Table 1

Comparison between the experimental and the simulated results.

μstructure	Specimen	Normalized Amplitude	N (Cycles)	Model prediction	
				Average Kinetic	Real Kinetic
RO	1	0.48	36,860	55,000	51,000
	2	0.48	52,015		65,000
	3	0.48	47,055		36,000
HO_0°	1	0.82	51,976	60,000	42,000
	2	0.82	38,544		49,000
	3	0.82	49,447		66,000
HO_90°	1	0.40	48,234	52,000	43,000
	2	0.40	33,902		35,000
	3	0.40	56,207		47,000

configurations.

An example of the evolution of the local damage rate during a variable temperature loading scheme is given in Fig. 10. These results indicate that the damage increases rapidly during first cycles. Moreover, one can see some discontinuities corresponding to the transitions between sequences. One can also notice that damage kinetic differs from one sequence to another. Each passage from one sequence to another produces an acceleration of the damage. For each temperature step, the kinetics of local damage is also determined by the phenomenological parameters α_{Ti} , σ_{Ti}^S and B_{Ti} and the micromechanical parameters α_{Ti} , β_{Ti} and γ_{Ti} that depend on the temperature. It is noticeable, in this example, that the application of the sequence S_4 , corresponding to very low temperature fatigue do not have a significant influence on the local damage.

Failure happened when $\frac{d}{d_c} = 1$ and $N = Nr$. Experimental and simulated results for the three material configurations are summarized in Table 1 in terms of fatigue life prediction. Globally, one can see a good agreement between experimental and simulated results. The developed model can be considerate conservative. In Eq. (6), the parameters B_{Ti} indicate the loss of stiffness kinetic for the temperature T_i . These parameters are known in the case of constant temperature fatigue (see Fig. 5). Hereafter, they are called average kinetic. In the case of variable temperature scheme, they may be also identified by measuring the loss of stiffness slope during each sequence. Therefore, in order to evaluate the impact on the predicted fatigue life of a loading sequence on the following sequences, one can compare the model results obtained for the real kinetics to those obtained using the average ones.

We can note that the use of kinetics measured experimentally according to the previously proposed procedure leads to results that are obviously closer to reality (Table 2). Using that kinetics, the experiment-simulation gap is of the order of 9–12%. This gap reaches 28% in the case of the HO_0° material when using the average kinetics values. This acceptable considering the dispersion of this kind of material.

In order to understand the higher gaps when using average kinetics, one should analyze the influence of the application of one or several sequences on the damage kinetic of the following one. Fig. 11 emphasizes that the application of loading sequences under 80 °C and –30 °C do not affect the damage kinetic at room temperature. The application of sequences under other temperatures (here 23 °C) affects significantly the kinetic at 80 °C. In this case, real kinetic is lower than the expected average one. Therefore, using average kinetic leads to lower predicted

Table 2

Analysis of variability of prediction compared to the real failure.

Microstructure	Average Kinetic	Experiment Kinetic
RO	21.39%	11.82%
HO_0°	28.60%	12.17%
HO_90°	12.76%	9.64%

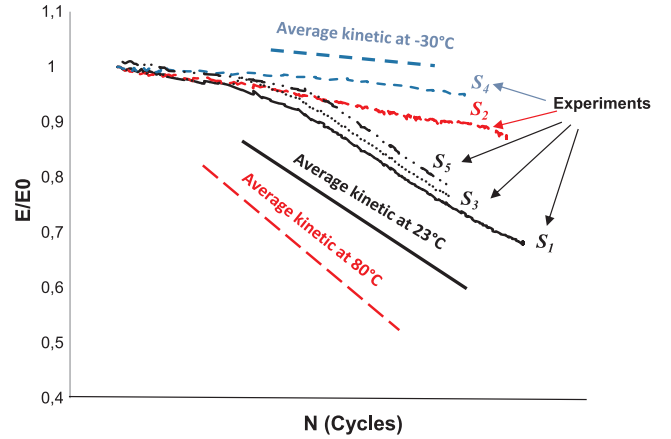


Fig. 11. Illustration of real and average damage kinetic for a five sequences variable temperature loading scheme, RO material.

fatigue life than reality. A specific study of the impact on the sequences on the damage kinetic of the following one should improve the application of the principle of superposition used here.

5. Conclusion

A hybrid model to predict fatigue life of SFRC materials based on a phenomenological approach coupled with a micromechanical damage model taking into account local fiber–matrix interfacial failure development has been presented. A state equation, whose parameters can be identified in the case of a simple tensile test and be used in the case of fatigue loading, relating a local damage rate to the applied stress, the number of cycle and micromechanical parameters has been derived. One parameter set has been identified for three temperature conditions. S-N curves at 23 °C, 80 °C and –30 °C have been predicted and have been found to be in good agreement with experimental data. Moreover, this approach allowed modelling the evolution of the local damage ratio under fatigue loading with variable temperature. The principle of superposition was used to determine the cumulative damage at the local scale during a five sequences variable temperature loading scheme. This approach has been applied for three different microstructural configurations of SMC materials. The model allows determine the damage rate during fatigue until failure. It was shown that near than 80% of the fiber–matrix interfaces are broken during the first sequence. Then, lower increments of damage are observed for the next sequences. It has been also emphasized that the effect of very low temperature could have a neglectable influence on local damage accumulation. Indeed, a relatively slow loss of stiffness has been observed at –30 °C.

Moreover, it has been shown that the application of sequences at other temperature may have an influence on the damage kinetic at 80 °C where it doesn't impact it at 23 °C. An experimental analysis should be performed in order to understand the influence of both cycling and temperature on the polymer morphology and its effect on the local damage kinetic. Therefore, our model should be improve. However, at this stage, the predicted fatigue lives remain acceptable regarding to the literature. For example, in the case of variable fatigue conditions, it is commonly agreed that life predictions based on the modeling procedures are validated when they are within a factor of 3 of the experimental lives [36]. In our case, we observe a gap of 30% only in the case of an intermediate stage at high temperature. Therefore, we can conclude that the proposed method has shown a real efficiency to predict fatigue life of SMC composites submitted to variable temperature and constant amplitude.

Moreover, a good agreement between experimental and predicted fatigue lives have been found for all studied microstructures.

One can conclude that, although pragmatic, the proposed new

hybrid model has shown a strong potential and a high level of relevance for SFRC fatigue life prediction. In the near future, the model will be extended to variable amplitude and temperature. The model should be introduced into a finite element analysis and adapted for fatigue design of SMC structural components. In further studies, the influence of other fatigue parameters should be integrated such as frequency and load ratio in order to improve the presented approach. Moreover, it should be applied in the case of thermoplastic composites for the visco-elastic and visco-plastic matrix behavior is highly coupled with damage at the local scale. Indeed, some authors have demonstrated the strong influence of the local plasticity around the fibers with specific effects on local debonding at the interface due to fatigue [37,38].

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